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The primary responsibilities of the intelligence function in the technical areas:

- --to determine the foreign state of the art
 across the spectrum of technical disciplines;
- --to determine the actual performance characteristics of those foreign systems and equipment (military or civilian in nature) whose capabilities and missions have an impact on US government decisions and operations;
- --to forecast future capabilities to the extent that such estimates can be inferred from existing intelligence information; such as, for example, the Soviet technology base or observed behavioral patterns;
- --to evaluate the performance of existing collection systems in satisfying the needs of the intelligence analyst and to communicate this assessment to the collection organizations;
- --to determine requirements for information and data not being acquired by current collection systems;
- --to provide technical information to the US R&D community where foreign technology or application thereof appears to differ from that of the US;

NTH

--to assess the technical capabilities of current and future foreign systems against the likely US opposition systems, and to point out where US systems could be improved to put them to better advantage.